

**REMARKS / ARGUMENTS**

Claims 91 to 96, 103 and 104 are pending in the current application. Claims 97 to 102 have been withdrawn.

Claims 91, 92, 94 to 96, 103 and 104 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 4,081,083 to Glauser et al. ("Glauser") in view of US Patent No. 4,792,162 to Medvick ("Medvick"). Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's assessment.

Glauser discloses a subway coupler which includes a train air line connection **16** which includes a bushing **17** which contains an outer threaded surface **20** terminating in an outer bearing vertical surface **21**. This vertical surface **21** is part of a flat ring seal holder **25**. The air line connection also includes an inner threaded surface **22** terminating in a recessed vertical bearing surface **23** which is opposite the vertical surface **21**. The Examiner has stated that Glauser discloses a two-part flange with a first portion being the threaded surface **22** and the second portion being the flat ring seal holder **25**. However, these two parts are not secured together as required in Claim 91. Instead, as disclosed in column 2, lines 48 and 49, "The threaded surfaces are connected and the sealing means 24 is disposed between the bearing surfaces." As discussed in lines 50 to 51, the flat ring seal holder **25** is a part of the sealing means **24**. In this regard, the flat ring sealer is simply a part that is located once the two threaded surfaces are connected and not secured, as required. While the Examiner has indicated that the two portions are integrated, Applicant respectfully submits that they are not secured together prior to the threading between the inner threaded surface **22** and the outer threaded surface **20**. For this reason, Applicant respectfully submits that Glauser is quiet with respect to the subject matter of the first and second portion being secured together. Moreover, Medvick does not disclose this subject matter. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that one skilled in the art, when reading Glauser and Medvick, separately or together, would not be able to arrive at the invention claimed in Claim 91. Retraction of Examiner's rejection of Claims 91, 92, 94 to 96, 103 and 104 is respectfully requested.

Claims 91 to 93, 95, 96, 103 and 104 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 5,944,319 to Kohlman ("Kohlman") in view of Medvick. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

As clearly shown in Kohlman, a two-piece flange assembly is shown which is different from a two-piece flange. As claimed, the invention is directed at a two-piece flange which can be secured to a complementary exhaust flange. In Kohlman, the two pieces 12 and 14 form an assembly and are not used to then connect to another complementary exhaust flange. Moreover, Applicant respectfully submits that Medvick is quiet with respect to this subject matter as well. Retraction of Examiner's rejection of 91 to 93, 95, 96, 103 and 104 is respectfully requested.

For the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance, which is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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